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TOP SECRET

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GENERAL NO. 028

1. Scandinavian "showdown" on Atlantic Pact imminent--US
Ambassador Bay in Oslo reports that the Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, and Defense Ministers of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark are now engaged in discussions which may result in a "showdown" concerning the attitude of the three powers toward the North Atlantic Pact. Bay indicates that the Norwegians apparently have called such a meeting at this time in order to enable them to find out where Denmark and Sweden stand before invitations are extended for the Washington talks on the North Atlantic Pact.

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NEAR EAST-AFRICA

2. PALESTINE: US urges Egypt and Israel to effect cease-fire--
The Department of State has instructed US Embassy Cairo to express to the Egyptian Government the hope of the US that Egypt will not alter its expressed readiness to enter into talks with the Provisional Government of Israel (PGI) even though the PGI did not accept the Security Council's cease-fire before the 5 January deadline set by Egypt. The Department considers that a reasonable opportunity should be given the PGI in which to accept the Egyptian offer. In a parallel message to US Representative McDonald in Tel Aviv, the Department has instructed McDonald to inform the PGI that the US trusts that it may be still possible for Israel and Egypt to enter into negotiations following a prompt and effective cease-fire. The US representatives in both Cairo and Tel Aviv are to point out that the US is making a similar representation to each government.

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